

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0493\_11**

**Senator Fifield provided in writing.**

**Question**

**MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY - DISABILITY  
SUPPORT PENSION EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PILOT**

I understand that the pilot scheme was to provide job opportunities for 1,000 Australians who receive the DSP. Can the Department advise how many people on the DSP have been employed as a result of this scheme? How many of those were employed for the full 26 weeks, i.e., how many employers received the full \$3,000 subsidy? Does the Department have data on how many pilot scheme participants who received full time work as a result of this scheme and who have continued in their employment beyond the 26 week threshold for employer subsidy? i.e. how many have gained permanent full time employment through the scheme?

**Answer**

The Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Scheme Pilot ('DSP Pilot') is a 2-year pilot program that commenced on 1 March 2010 in the 15 Labour Force Regions with the highest number of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients. The DSP Pilot aims to increase employment opportunities for DSP recipients by offering wage subsidies of up to \$3300 (including GST) to employers who agree to provide DSP recipients with employment of at least 8 hours per week for at least 26 weeks.

As the DSP Pilot commenced on 1 March 2010, the 26-week employment period under the Pilot means that no reimbursement of full wage subsidies were payable in August 2010 and, as such, the Department does not yet have data on 26-week completion rates. 330(33 per cent) of the 1000 wage subsidies available under the DSP Pilot have been allocated over the course of the 6 months to the end of August 2010.